ILHIE Direct Secure Messaging Now Available!

As its first service offering, the Illinois Office of Health Information Exchange (ILHIE) is pleased to assist all licensed Illinois health care providers in reaching Stage 1 Meaningful Use with the ILHIE Direct Secure Messaging Solution at no cost throughout 2012.

ILHIE Direct users can share sensitive and confidential health care information without the risk of breach or exposure. Unlike traditional email, encrypted messages and attachments are sent through and then received in a secure Clinical Message Portal. Registering for ILHIE Direct is quick and simple. Using ILHIE Direct is very intuitive and much like sending an email. Only a week after our launch, we have over 130 subscribers!

ILHIE Direct – the First Exchange

Stasia Kahn MD and Alliance of Chicago member Howard Brown Health Center want to achieve the Stage 1 Meaningful Use exchange objective. They each successfully exchanged a patient Continuity of Care document with one another using ILHIE Direct; satisfying Core Objective 14 of Stage 1 Meaningful Use. "Registering for ILHIE Direct was quick and very easy and the actual exchange of clinical information with Dr. Kahn was similar to sending her an email," comments Elizabeth McKnight from the Alliance of Chicago. Special thanks to Elizabeth, Stasia and Kristin Keglovitz at Howard Brown Health Center for being the very first users of ILHIE Direct.

To register visit http://ilhiedirect.net or for more information, contact
cory.verblen@illinois.gov, or call Cory at 312-793-0430

Patient-Centered Care Through Technology

While health IT holds the promise of improved clinical outcomes, it also has the potential to greatly improve patient-provider communication. In addition to the importance of patients having access to their medical information though their Electronic Health Records (EHR's); it also offers so many other secure communication tools. In addition, new patient-centered mobile phone applications and home health IT devices are exploding right now before our eyes. Like most of us, patients are busy people who are looking for convenience and finding it through health IT.

E-Health Exchange- Better Care Through Technology

Evolving Patient Expectations

Health IT has great potential to improve communications between patients and providers. Embracing health IT will help providers to create patient-centered practices that engage patients. As time passes patients will increasingly expect and seek out providers that embrace all the consumer conveniences of health IT.

E-Prescribing – It is reported that one of every three physicians, nurse practitioners and physician assistants in the U.S. is e-prescribing. Not only does e-prescribing increase patient safety and provide possible savings on prescriptions, patient convenience is likely something patients will soon expect.

E-Mail - Communicating with patients through a secure email exchange will allow you to treat patients who do not need an office visit. This frees you to care for patients who do need to meet with you in person. Everyone benefits.

Online appointments – Making appointments online not only make it easier for your patients, but free office staff from fielding phone calls to make appointments.

Appointment Reminders - Sending patients appointment reminders help reduce no shows and reduce staff time calling patients. Providing patients with reminder prompts, increases their adherence to medications and especially benefits those living chronic conditions achieve better treatment outcomes.

Health Web Sites - With patients turning to the Internet more for their health information it is important for providers to assist patients with providing reliable health information and peer-health sites.

Now more than ever, it is time to embrace Health IT for your patients and for your future. Need help finding or installing an electronic health record system, or implementing and becoming "Meaningful Users" of electronic health records, two Illinois Regional Extension Centers will assist you at no cost. (For Providers Statewide) www.ilhitrec.org/ilhitrec/ , (For Providers in Chicago) www.chitrec.org/

Join us in creating our own personal dynamic exchange of information, thoughts, questions and dialog about heath IT throughout Illinois on Facebook. Visit www.facebook.com/ILOHIT

For more information visit www.hie.illinois.gov

E-Health Exchange- Better Care Through Technology